



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE**

FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 West 15TH Street, Suite 3200
HELENA, MT 59626-0096
Phone 866-457-2690
www.epa.gov/region08

March 2, 2016

Ref: 8MO

Jon Kenning, Chief
Water Protection Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Re: Comments on Permit MT0020371, Town of Ekalaka Wastewater Treatment Facility

Dear Mr. Kenning:

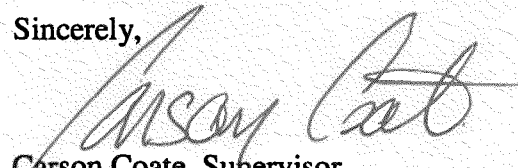
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft permit and fact sheet for the Town of Ekalaka Wastewater Treatment Facility (MT0020371), and has the following comments:

1. The fact sheet states that Russell Creek is ephemeral and "Discharges to ephemeral streams are subject to the general provisions of ARM 17.30.635 through 637, 641, 645, and 646 but not to the specific water quality standards of ARM 17.30.620 through 629 [ARM 17.30.637(6)]."

Based on ARM 17.30.612 and 17.30.629, Russell Creek is classified as a C-3 water, which "are to be maintained suitable for bathing, swimming, and recreation, and growth and propagation of non-salmonid fishes and associated aquatic life, waterfowl, and furbearers. The quality of these waters is naturally marginal for drinking, culinary, and food processing purposes, agriculture, and industrial water supply." Please clarify what stream classification, beneficial uses, and water quality criteria apply to Russell Creek.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Kusnierz by telephone at 406-457-5001, or by e-mail at kusnierz.lisa@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Carson Coate, Supervisor
Media Programs



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